

A Look INSIDE

Military members get a glimpse inside newly renovated housing in Stuttgart, Germany

Story and Photos by
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As the Army transforms the way Soldiers train and fight, it is also committing considerable effort, and resources, into enhancing the quality of life of the service members and families who live on installations.

One of the benefits of this effort was unveiled July 27 on Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, during a dedication ceremony and open house celebrating the completion of a neighborhood revitalization project in Old Craig Village.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, together with contractor HSG Technischer Service GmbH provided 110 improved housing units for area families, said Carl Pritchard, director of the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works. Instead of upgrading individual buildings, the whole neighborhood revitalization project concept resulted in a dramatic improvement of an entire area.

“Our Stuttgart Whole Neighborhood Renovation Project Delivery Team was superb and we are all very proud of their success. This project represents a classic example of a straightforward mission in which all the elements came together synergistically, without a hitch,” said Col. Margaret Burcham, Europe District commander.

The improved neighborhood for 90 military families received high marks from many.

Eric Kevitz, who supervised the project for HSG Technischer Service GmbH, said the results included not only “wonderful” apartments but

◀ **Members from the military community in Stuttgart, Germany were invited to view the newly renovated Officer's Quarters in the Patch Housing Area.**



also a stronger relationship between host-nation companies and U.S. military organizations.

"This was a great project," he said.
"Partnership works."

Teaming with various agencies, to include the 6th Area Support Group and members of the Norfolk District, to provide such quality of life improvements requires communication and strong teamwork. The project has been nominated by the Europe District as one of the Project Delivery Teams of the year.

The neighborhood revitalization project was delivered through the process of using "virtual engineering" to incorporate the stateside talents of the Norfolk Design team. Europe and Norfolk Districts technology to transfer Computer Aided Drafting and Design files, quickened the design process. The cornerstone of the project was a two-week design charrette involving housing and public works officials and placed the project on the fast track. The project was delivered a month ahead of schedule and below cost.

The approximate price tag was about \$17.5 million, and included various upgrades on several aspects of the construction, many which progressed from the drawing board at the Europe District level to what was seen at the open house. The project included the renovation of 10 residential buildings, each containing apartments with various floor plans which included: 60 three-bedroom apartments of 1,646 square feet, 30 four-bedroom apartments of 1,898 square feet, and 20 four-bedroom apartments, constructed in former attic spaces, each with 2,013 square feet.

All apartments include laundry spaces and provide washers and dryers – no more need to haul laundry down to the basement. And, each renovated unit has two bathrooms.

Other highlights of the upgrades include new sprinklers, heating, sewer systems, fire alarms, lighting fixtures and intercoms – part of a comprehensive improvement of area infrastructure.

The outdoor enhancements included new roads, parking areas, patio/grill areas, and various shrubs and trees.

During the ceremony, two military

Community members take the opportunity to socialize and walk through the new housing. ►

The open house is a perfect occasion for people to gather and see how the military is taking care of its people. The new housing offers spacious accommodations for officers and their families. ►



leaders cited caring about community members and family support as the driving force behind the project.

"The Corps of Engineers greatly appreciates the opportunity to enhance the quality of life on our military installations. It's also an opportunity to provide service members and their families quality facilities that directly impact them in their day-to-day lives," said Burcham.

Col. Gwendolyn Boney-Harris, commander of the 6th Area Support Group, said the project was also about peace of mind.

"Our service members work so hard," she said, "and this lets them know that their families are living in a nice, secure place. Taking care of our families is simply the right thing to do."

Editor's Note: Hugh C. McBride, from the Stuttgart Public Affairs Office, contributed to this story.

